Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

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EO 11652 NA TAGS TGEN OECD CA SUBJ OECD SCIENCE MINISTERS MEETING

REF RICHMOND (DES/SCI/BMP)/O'SHEA AND GRANT/PORTER TELECONS, MARCH 26

1. PER REF TELECONS AMBASSADOR CONVEYED U.S. SUPPORT FOR DRURY AS CHAIRMAN SUBJECT MEETING TO EXTAFF UNDER SECRETARY BASIL ROBINSON AND ECON COUNSELOR RAISED MATTER WITH PAM MCDOUGALL, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS BUREAU AND NEIL HAFFEY, DIRECTOR, SCIENTIFIC RELATIONS DIVISION OF EXTAFF. ALL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S. SUPPORT FOR DRURY AND INDICATED OUR VIEWS WOULD BE FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

2. THIS AFTERNOON, MAY 27, HAFFEY INFORMED EMBASSY THAT AFTER MUCH "TO-ING AND FRO-ING," GOC HAD DECIDED THAT IN CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH FINALDN HAS FORMALLY NOMINATED A CANDIDATE, GOC WILL NOT REPEAT NOT "LAUNCH A CAMPAIGN" FOR DRURY. IF CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE BEFORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEETING IN JUNE OR THERE IS GROUNDSWELL FROM OTHERS

DEMANDING THAT DRURY SHOULD BE CHAIRMAN, DRURY WOULD BE PREPARED TO SERVE BUT GOC WILL NOT TAKE INITIATIVE.

GOC MISSION TO OECD IS BEING INSTRUCTED TO SO INFORM

SECRETARY GENERAL AND INTERESTED MISSIONS.

3. HAFFEY SAID BASIC REASON FOR GOC DECISION IS FACT THAT FINLAND IS VERY KEEN TO HAVE ITS NOMINEE SELECTED AND ATTACHES GREAT POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO OUTCOME. CANADA DOES NOT ATTACH SUCH POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO MATTER AND DOES NOT WANT TO GET INTO CONFRONTATION WITH FINNS.

4. HAFFEY VOLUNTEERED THAT "READOUT" FROM GOC MISSION TO OECD IS THAT FINNISH CANDIDATE, THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, INCLUDES SCIENCE IN HIS PORTFOLIO, AND ALTHOUGH YOUNG IS VERY ABLE INDIVIDUAL. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS GENERALLY AGREED HE MAY BE OUT OF HIS LEAGUE WITH OTHER SCIENCE MINISTERS.

PORTER

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